SAMPLE APPEAL LETTER – FAIL FIRST REQUIREMENT CROHN’S –REQUEST BIOLOGIC

Insurance Company

# **RE:**

**DOB:**

**ID #**

**Pat Acct #**

DATE

Dear Sir, or Madam:

I am writing on behalf of my patient, Mr./Ms. Doe, to request biologic treatment of his/her inflammatory bowel disease without first failing mesalamine and steroids.

Mr./Ms. XXXX has a history of [IBD Phenotype and prior surgeries/complications (e.g., fistulas, abscess, strictures)] and has previously failed treatment with [Previous medication failures and/or intolerances].

The most recent American College of Gastroenterology guidelines for Crohn’s disease do not recommend use of 5ASAs or steroids for maintenance of remission in Crohn’s disease1. This is based on significant data suggesting NO benefit of these medications over placebo in the maintenance phase of treatment. Furthermore, 5-ASAs (mesalamine) is not effective in induction of remission in Crohn’s disease and hence their use in Crohn’s disease is discouraged in the updated guideline.

Based on current guidelines and my personal and professional experience, I strongly believe that initiating a biologic without requiring failure of 5ASAs or steroids is warranted.

I appreciate your consideration in this matter. As my patient is suffering with symptoms at this time that put him/her at risk to develop serious complications from his/her disease, I hope that you can expedite this request so that he/she can be started on therapy as soon as possible. Please feel free to contact my office if any additional information will help clarify this request.

Sincerely,

Dr.

Contact info

**References:**

1. Lichtenstein et al. (2018). ACG Clinical Guideline: management of Crohn’s Disease in Adults. *Am J Gastroenterol*, 27 March 2018.